

Children and Families Commission of Placer County

Request for Results

2002-03

Vision

“The Placer County Children and Families Commission believes all children are our children, therefore we shall create an environment that supports our children and their families in reaching their full potential.”

General Information

This *Request for Result* application packet is designed for requests of \$5,000 or under. We would like to build on the significant number of organizations already funded by the Children and Families Commission that make up our “Partner Network”, so please review the other programs that are currently receiving funding to see where your proposed outcomes may connect. Also, please take time to read the Commission’s strategic plan as this funding initiative is intended to further the goals in the plan.

The core premise of our Request for Results process is a recognition that in order for Placer County to positively impact children 0-5 and their families, we cannot just do business as usual. Also, to keep Proposition 10 funding from becoming a “0-5 silo” or categorical program, we must focus on results. By definition, no one agency can achieve comprehensive results for children and families on their own as it requires communication, coordination and collaborative with other partners in a networked model. Another premise is that no child should go without care and/or enrichment just so one agency can receive Prop. 10 money while another does not. Consequently, we have set aside the competitive grant writing process that pits one vulnerable population against another. **What we want are measurable results that improve the lives of our children and families.**

We ask our proposing partners to think through the important results that can be achieved with Proposition 10 funding, and work with us to measure those results. Also, we believe that the anticipated results are most effectively measured by those who are delivering and receiving services, so as you think of the results you would like to achieve, also think about how you will measure those results and the processes that you will use to learn from your data. This application process should be viewed as an opportunity to achieve the results we all want for our children and families; not just another proposal process to spend money. We are available to provide technical assistance to you in developing your outcomes and to help with your evaluation.



General Background About Proposition 10

The California Children and Families Act of 1998 (Proposition 10) is the source of funding for this *Request for Results* initiative to promote, support, and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stages to five years of age. In Placer County, Proposition 10 funds are administered by the Children and Families Commission (CFC). Staff support for the CFC is provided by the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services. The Act provides a historic opportunity to invest in the well being of children and families in ways that will benefit all of us for decades to come. The overall intent of the Act is that local Commissions will engage service providers and consumers in an “integrated county-wide partnership approach” to achieve strategic results in four areas outlined in the Commission’s plan:

- Improved Family Functioning: Strong Families and Support for Families
- Improved Child Development: Children Learning and Ready for School
- Improved Child Health: Healthy Children
- Comprehensive Child and Family Partnership Competencies

The primary focus of this initiative is on early childhood development. Current scientific research indicates that the emotional, physical and intellectual environment that a child is exposed to in the first years of life has a lasting impact on how the child’s brain, body, and behavior develop. The experiences that an infant and toddler has with parents and caregivers will influence how that child functions when he or she reaches school and later in life. Prior to Proposition 10, most money spent on children’s programs was directed at children older than five years of age. This *Request for Results* process is a significant step in the direction of focusing on the critical prenatal period and first five years in a child’s development.

The CFC’s strategic plan describes several high impact or high leverage strategies for each of the four strategic results areas, along with anticipated benchmarks that can be measured to track progress on a community wide basis. Also included, are performance measures that can be used to gauge achievement of results at a program or consumer level. The terms used in the plan and in this *Request for Results* are defined as follows:

Strategic Result – A broad goal to be achieved throughout the county.

Outcome – A condition and/or behavior that will exist as a result of activities or services funded or initiated through the CFC.

County-Wide Benchmark – Aggregate data to measure outcome achievement at the county level.

Recommended Strategies – Broad activities to achieve the CFC goals and outcomes.

Program Performance Measures – Data that will describe the activities funded by the CFC and the extent to which these activities are helping children and families achieve their desired outcomes.

The CFC strategic plan is an integral part of this *Request for Results*. The strategies in the plan are offered because they are grounded in proven approaches and supported by the “community voice” that emerged during the planning process. They are not, however, meant to preclude additional innovative and creative strategies offered by community partners. The CFC believes that local communities know best how to use resources to improve child health and well-being and support families in their own neighborhoods.

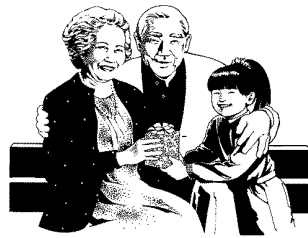


Qualities of a Good Application

The Children and Families Commission is seeking results for children and families through applications that have the following qualities:

- Addresses the Strategic Results in the CFC’s Integrated Plan (adopted on August 10, 2000).
- Promotes integrated, coordinated, accessible, and consumer friendly systems of care (both formal and informal) serving children 0-5 and their families.
- Provides cultural and language appropriate family centered services using a family team (or “wrap-around”) approach.
- Results-based to achieve genuine relevant outcomes and uses meaningful performance measures.
- Inter-generational (where possible) to draw on and promote the strengths of families.
- Reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community addressed.
- Establishes and/or expands linkages with traditional and non-traditional partners.
- Removes barriers and increases child care, health and family support services and enrichment for all families of 0-5 children in Placer County including families who have children with special needs and families in socially and geographically isolated communities.

- Builds on other Proposition 10 funded services in Placer County; services funded through the State Commission initiatives; or those of a county contiguous to Placer County that shows specific benefits to Placer County residents.
- Utilizes existing collaboratives and partnerships to leverage financial and human resources and fosters inclusive and integrated system-wide approaches.
- Builds on current assets and strengths of the communities served.
- Includes an evaluation plan to collect and measure proposed indicators and present data in a fashion that is understandable, so that data can be used for programmatic and policy decisions.



Qualities of Eligible Entities

- Applicants may be a non-profit community-based organization, association or group (including a joint venture with a fiscal sponsor), corporation, school, municipality or unit of local government located in Placer County.
- Private businesses may apply with a current business license and compliance with all local, state and federal requirements that may apply.
- Proposition 10 funds are subject to stringent auditing standards. Therefore, entities that receive these funds must use sound fiscal practices. Annual independent auditing will be required.
- It is preferred that applicants have experience in planning and delivering health, child care, educational, enrichment or social services that promote, support and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age, and their families.

Application Evaluation and Award Criteria

The Commission will evaluate each application to determine its responsiveness to the Commission's strategic plan. The specific evaluation criteria are listed below.

Criteria

- Addresses one or more of the Strategic Result Areas in the CFC Plan.

- Adheres to the “Application Qualities” listed above.
- Contains clear outcomes that describe conditions and/or behaviors that will exist as a result of the services provided.
- Contains clear activities and/or services (processes) that will achieve the outcomes.
- Meaningful data collected and a reasonable evaluation plan to measure achievement of the outcomes.
- A reasonable budget that leverages and/or maximizes other funds and directly supports the achievement of the outcomes.
- Demonstrated past or current results.
- Shows actual as opposed to proposed collaboration with other organizations (people) providing services to the population targeted in your application. Where appropriate, links with currently funded partners.

Restrictions & Eligible Beneficiaries

- Consistent with the intent of the California Children and Families Act of 1998, no money from this application process may be used to supplant federal, state, county or other money available to the applicant. In other words, activities funded under this R4R process must be new or enhancements to existing activities. You may not withdraw funds currently supporting an activity and replace or supplant them with Proposition 10 funds.
- An exciting aspect of Proposition 10 funding is that all 0-5 children and their families are “eligible” to receive the benefits of Proposition 10 funds. There is no “means test” or income level that must be met to receive services. Also, this funding is not necessarily geared toward “at-risk” populations. Nor are there any restrictions due to race, color or creed. Therefore, an organization receiving these funds must not discriminate in any way and must comply with all equal opportunity laws in the planning and delivery of services.

Required Documents

We have tried to make this application process user friendly but there are certain business practices that we must embrace in order to meet our obligations to the State Children and Families Commission. Although we have kept the required documents to a minimum we realize that our minimum standards may pose problems for non-traditional organizations or informal parent groups. If you have an outcome you would like to achieve but you are not able to provide the required documents or partner with an organization that does, please talk to us about what you would like to see happen for children and families. Maybe we can find

some alternatives. For the most part, however, to be considered for funding, applicants should provide the following documents that fit your organization or affiliation:

- If applicable, a current list of your Board of Directors with their affiliations.
- For collaborative approaches, letters of commitment or Memorandums of Understanding from key agencies or other partners outlining specific types and levels of commitment to your proposed activities.
- Proof of non-profit status, appropriate business license, and/or fiscal sponsor.
- Copy of your most recent independent CPA audit or audited year-end financial statement.
- Proof of appropriate insurance indemnifying the Children and Families Commission will be required at the execution of a contract.

Appeals

After the CFC has made its funding decisions any applicant may appeal a decision by filing in writing the reasons for the appeal. The CFC will review all appeals and try to resolve them in a timely fashion. The CFC's decision on each appeal will be final and not appealable. The CFC will give written notice setting forth the final outcome of the appeal.

Required Reports and Learning Symposiums

In order to track progress and share learning from the field, all funded partners will be required to prepare outcome based reports and participate in “learning symposiums” and or “Outcome Faires” to share outcome data with the CFC community and other partners.

Also, the State Children and Families Commission requires an annual report from the Placer County CFC. Essentially, the County CFC report will be an overview of the work performed through our CFC Partner Network. Therefore, all funded partners will be required to provide the information needed to comply with the State reporting requirements.



Number of Copies

Just one unbound copy of your application will be fine (no binders) but please make sure it is something that we can duplicate on our copy machine. If brochures are part of the application include five (5) of them.

Can I submit my application over the Internet?

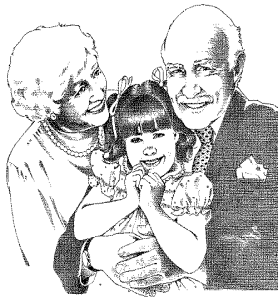
Yes. This is a “qualified yes” because right now we are working in Word. If you have the capability to work in Word there should be no problem. Just send an e-mail to Edie Lang elang@placer.ca.gov and she will send you an e-R4R template. If you have questions about the compatibility of our computer systems contact us early and we will see what we can do.

**Children and Families Commission of Placer County
11730 Enterprise Drive
Auburn, CA 95603**

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/children/cfamcomm.htm>

Phone: 530.889.6772 or 889.6751

Fax: 530.889.6763



Request for Results Application Cover Page 2002-03

Vision

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Please do not use anything smaller than a 12-point font to complete this application.

Contact Person:

Affiliation:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Amount Requested: (\$5,000 or less)

Duration of Funding:

Geographic Areas Served:

Ages Served:

Check the one strategic result area that you feel best describes how you will benefit children from 0-5 and their families:

Improved Family Functioning: Strong Families and Support for Families

Improved Child Development: Children Learning and Ready for School

Improved Child Health: Healthy Children

Comprehensive Child and Family Partnership Competencies

Summary of Anticipated Outcomes: (What will people do and/or what conditions will exist as a result of your services?)

Statement of the Opportunity or Problem:

What existing opportunities, conditions, circumstances, or behaviors does your organization propose to address with Prop 10 funding?

Proposed Outcomes:

What will the existing behaviors and/or conditions become like if your proposed strategies are successful?

Proposed Strategy:

What will your organization do with Prop. 10 funds to achieve your proposed outcomes?

Program Performance Measures:

What qualitative and/or quantitative information (data) will you collect to describe the extent to which your program achieves the proposed outcomes?

Costs:

How much will the proposed effort cost? How will Prop. 10 funds be spent?
What other funds will be used in addition to Prop. 10 funds?

Provide us with a proposed budget - using your organization's format - that includes sufficient cost detail to describe the proposed project. Be specific about how you will use Proposition 10 funds so that the CFC and the community can see exactly where Prop 10 money will be used.

Connections:

Describe how you will collaborate or interact with other organizations to implement the proposed project? (Actual collaborators not proposed collaborators). Which, if any, of the current CFC Partner Network are you working with to accomplish your proposed outcomes?